

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 IO-10

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P R 071824Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1007

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN

SUBJECT: COMORO ISLANDS

REF: PARIS 16785

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA COMBAL TOLD US JULY 7 THAT PRIME MINISTER AHMED ABDALLAH'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF COMORIAN INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 5 WAS "ALMOST TO BE EXPECTED" IN LIGHT OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S AMENDMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S COMORIAN INDEPENDENCE BILL WHICH WAS FINALLY VOTED BY PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 30 (REF.). COMBAL SAID THINGS ARE VERY CALM IN THE ISLANDS AND THAT HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD DO NEXT. HE ADMITTED THAT THE GOF IS NOT AS "SERENE" ABOUT THE SITUATION AS LAST WEEKEND'S ELYSEE STATEMENT WOULD INDICATE AND CLAIMED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE DECIDED BEFORE THE MATTER IS DISCUSSED JULY 9 BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE GOF WOULD TRY TO REACH SOME AGREEMENT WITH ABDALLAH AND DOUBTED, BUT DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT FRENCH FORCES WOULD BE SENT TO PROTECT THE MAYOTTE MINORITY'S RIGHT, AS OUTLINED IN THE BILL
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PASSED BY PARLIAMENT, AND DEMANDED AGAIN SUNDAY BY

MAYOTTE'S FIVE DEPUTIES, TO SEPARATE SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. COMMENTING ON COMORIAN LOCAL POLITICS, COMBAL SAID ABDALLAH'S ACTION HAS STRENGTHENED HIS HAND AGAINST HIS MOSLEM POLITICAL ENEMIES WHO OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REAP POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FROM THE AMENDED INDEPENDENCE LAW. HE HINTED THAT NONETHELESS, AN ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH ABDALLAH WOULD LOSE SOME OF HIS POWER MIGHT HAVE TO BE FOUND IF MAYOTTE'S WORST FEARS ARE TO BE CALMED. FINALLY, COMBAL NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM BEFORE THIS FALL'S UNGA CONVENES.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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